

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

Project Title: The Dow Chemical Company, Block 560 Drum Storage Area
Hazardous Waste Storage Facility Permit Renewal

Project Applicant: The Dow Chemical Company

Project Location: 901 Loveridge Road, Pittsburg, California 94565

County: Contra Costa County

Project Description:

The proposed project is the renewal of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Equivalent Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for continued operation of the Block 560 Drum Storage Area. The Block 560 Drum Storage Area will be permitted to store containers of hazardous waste with a maximum permitted capacity of 6000 gallons for a period of up to one year. The term of this permit is ten years from date of issuance. DTSC has discretionary authority over Hazardous Waste Facility Permit issuance, per Chapter 21 Division 4.5 California Code of Regulations, Title 22.

Location

The facility resides in an industrial corridor along the south side of New York Slough and the San Joaquin River due north of the City of Pittsburg. Dow owns the undeveloped land south of the facility. This undeveloped land borders a band of commercial and light industrial activity to the south. The Block 560 Drum Storage Area is in the interior of the Pittsburg facility and surrounded by process units. This graded storage area is level, paved and lined, and surrounded by internal roads. This storage area provides secondary containment consisting of a concrete floor and 6-inch berms.

Background

The Dow site originally operated as a chemical manufacturing plant between 1916 and 1939 by the Great Western Electro Chemical Company. They produced chlorinated hydrocarbons and mining chemicals. Dow purchased the plant in 1939 and has since acquired surrounding property commonly used for other industrial purposes.

The facility currently operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Operations include research and development and the manufacture of products for agricultural operations, pest control services, paper manufacturers, carpet mills, and biocides. During the manufacture of chemical products at the facility, hazardous wastes are also produced as by-products and are categorized as follows: chlorinated pyridines; waste styrene oil; solvent and paint contaminated filters; chlorinated organics; organic liquid lab wastes; caustic scrubber effluent; distillation liquids; sym-tet liquid organics; chlorinated liquid solvents; and spent solvents. These Hazardous wastes are placed in drums and stored in accumulation areas. Drummed hazardous wastes generated in the various operations at the Dow plant are shipped to an offsite facility within 90 days or to the onsite Block 560 Drum Storage Area. Both industrial furnaces are permitted (separate RCRA Permit). Wastes not being sent to the industrial furnaces are normally shipped offsite within 90 days however, these drums are moved to the Block 560 Drum Storage Area when additional storage time is required. These wastes are then transported offsite for further management at an authorized facility within a year of storage.

Permitting and CEQA History

The Department of Health Services issued the original Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) in 1983. After filing Negative Declaration 1995073062 with the State Clearinghouse, DTSC approved the renewal of the Permit on July 23, 1996, followed by Notice of Determination 1996104473. In 2006, DTSC conducted an initial study for the Permit renewal and filed Negative Declaration 2006022097 with the State Clearinghouse. On June 29, 2006, DTSC approved the Permit renewal. The Permit expired on July 30, 2016, but federal and state law allows facilities with expired permits to continue operation if the facility filed an application, accepted by DTSC in advance of the permit expiration date. Dow Chemical Company submitted the required permit renewal application in February 2016.

Project Activities

The Permit renewal includes the following activities:

- Transportation of solid and liquid hazardous waste in drums from onsite operating manufacturing units to Block 560 Drum Storage Area.
- Storage of different size containers of hazardous waste with a maximum permitted capacity of 6000 gallons for a period of up to one year.
- Transportation of solid and liquid hazardous waste in drums from Block 560 Drum Storage Area by a DTSC authorized Transporter to an authorized offsite facility. The Drums are shipped in tractor trailer trucks.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Jeff Cast, Environmental Hazardous Waste Specialist

Exemption Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]
☐ Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec.15269(a)]
☐ Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec.15269(b)(c)]
☒ Categorical Exemption: [CCR, Sec. 15301]
☐ Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]
☐ General Rule [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Exemption Title: Existing Facilities.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

The project is a hazardous waste facility permit renewal of an existing private storage facility involving no expansion of use, as originally analyzed in the 2006 Initial Study / Negative Declaration (2006022097). The facility is not on the Cortese list.

Evidence to support the above conclusions is documented in the project file record, available for inspection at:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Permitting Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

Lung-Yin Tai
Project Manager Name

Hazardous Substances Engineer
Project Manager Title

916-255-3615
Phone #

Branch Chief Signature

Date

Branch Chief Name

Branch Chief Title

Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR: